



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 27, NOVEMBER 1992

Office Bearers:

President - June Senior 41 Lincoln Ave.,
Glen Waverley 3150. 560 8746

Vice-President - John McMillan 8 Aphrasia St.,
Geelong 3220.(052)295886

Secretary - Steven McMillan 126 Morack Rd.,
Vermont Stn 3133. 801 5223

Treasurer - Bruce McMillan 38 Parkhill Rd.,
Kew 3101. 817 4303

Archivist/
Editor - June Senior 41 Lincoln Ave.,
Glen Waverley 3150. 560 8746

Committee Members:

Joy McMillan 8 Aphrasia St.
Geelong 3220. (052)295886

Elizabeth Petras
19/15 Cochrane St.,
Nth Brighton 3186. 596 664

Kaeline Blake 11 Grace St.
Melton Stn 3338. 743 994

MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE: *A dexter and
a sinister hand brandishing a two-
handed sword, proper.*
MOTTO: *Misens succurre disco*
(I learn to succour the distressed)
GAELIC NAME: *MacGhille-
Mhaolain*

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Those who attended our B.B.Q. and Annual General Meeting on Sunday, the 18th October 1992 had a most enjoyable day. The weather was a worry as we had heavy rain 2 days previously with more forecast on the day, and only our Clan tent for shelter. We had two offers from members to use their home. This was the perfect solution and we went to Bruce and June McMillan's home in Kew - not all that far from Scotch College. Phone calls were made to those who had attended last year and we put a notice on the entrance to the area we drive through at Scotch College advising the change of venue. We had a good day and the meeting went well. We thank Bruce & June for their hospitality on the day and also thank Jean McMillan for her kind offer. When Max & I returned to Scotch College to remove Bruce's notice the area we were to use was awash and several areas under water so the late change of venue was certainly a great idea, so much so Bruce & June have offered to have us again next year. Max & I were indeed fortunate to spend six weeks at Aix-en-Provence in the south of France with members of our family in Sept/October. We had wonderful weather-interesting day trips to Provence villages so full of history and explored Aix-en-Provence, the former cultural capital of Provence. We arrived home just in time for our A.G.M. It is great to be home again - Christmas is looming and I am anxious to have this Newsletter to you as soon as possible. Seasons greetings to all and good health for 1993.

Kindest regards,
June Senior

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to present a short report on the year 1991/1992. Our present membership is 77 with 5 new members for the year. Sadly Mrs Betty Garrett, Lindsay McRae and Mick Bell died during the year and our deepest sympathy has been expressed to their families.

Our Clan Chief's letter in the New Year was welcomed with great interest as always, and keeps us in touch with happenings at Finlaystone.

We have produced 3 Newsletters this year - Members have been helpful with articles and to those people thank you. It makes the Editor's job much easier. A Clan Society has been formed in N.Z. and we have established a close link by exchanging Newsletters and correspondence.

A Glen Urquhart McMillan Society has been formed and their Australian correspondent Russell Harrison is kindly keeping us informed on this. As several of our members families came from this area it is of great interest. Bruce McMillan, Max & I attended the Ringwood Highland Games in March and our display created quite an interest to those passing by our tent. We had a display at the Scottish History/Genealogy Day to inform people of the information available to them for research.

Continued Page 2.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Our congratulations to John & Kaye McMillan for winning a top Tourism Award again this year for their Holiday Village at Metung - a fine achievement. I would like to thank the Clans who send us their Newsletters and who allow us to use any relevant information. This is a great help for the Editor! Max & I have attended Ceilidhs for the MacFarlane, Morrison and Cameron Clans and we thank them for their hospitality and friendship. Finally my grateful thanks go to our Secretary Steven and Treasurer Bruce for the work they have done during the past year - and to Max Senior our Auditor. To John & Joy McMillan and Elizabeth Petras who accepted positions on the committee at our last A.G.M thank you for your positive support.

June Senior President.

A.G.M HELD ON SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 1992

As mentioned on Page 1 members met at Bruce & June McMillan's home. Although it had rained in the morning we were able to have lunch outside. The committee was re-elected unopposed. Kaelene Blake was elected to the committee. We welcome Kaelene to the committee. The subject of fees was discussed. The annual subscription has been \$5.00 since the Society was formed in 1982. With the increase in printing and postage during this time it has become necessary to increase the yearly subscription. It was moved and seconded that the fees payable October 1992/93 be \$10.00 per subscription.

You have been made aware through the Newsletters of the Clan Centre which has been opened at Finlaystone, the home of our Clan Chief George MacMillan. This is an ongoing project and we receive information from time to time as to the progress of the Centre. This Centre is for the use of all MacMillans and anyone going to Scotland is urged to visit. MacMillans from all over the world will find so much of interest about the Clan.

I am mindful that as yet we have not contributed to the Centre and our funds to date have not allowed us to do so. After discussion those present at the meeting were in complete agreement that we forward a donation of \$3.00 from each \$10.00 subscription received for the current year.

If any member wishes to contribute further any donation forwarded to Treasurer Bruce and clearly marked "Donation for Clan Centre-Finlaystone" will be forwarded. Because of high bank charges for negotiating cheques overseas it is better to consolidate donations before forwarding them to Scotland. On page 3 there is a message from our Clan Chief about the Clan Centre which I am sure you will all find very interesting.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to Russell Harrison of West Ryde N.S.W. Russell is the Australian representative of the Glen Urquhart MacMillan Society and will keep us informed as he receives information from that area. Several of our members Ancestors are from that part of Scotland and are very interested in the news we receive so thank you Russell. We sincerely hope you enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

1992/93 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

As mentioned above subscription fees of \$10.00 are now due. It would be appreciated if these could be paid promptly. It makes my job much easier as it entails extra work having to type out reminder notices each Newsletter. I realize everyone is very busy and it is easy to overlook sending in your subscription. Your co-operation in saving me this extra work would be appreciated.

June Senior Editor.



George Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan

A message from George G. MacMillan of MacMillan of Knap, 32nd Hereditary Chief of Clan MacMillan: Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Clan Centre Appeal : Bulletin No. 2. 20 August 1991.

You'll see from the shaded buckle that we now have about 27,000 of our estimated total of 240,000. We also have a promise of 25% of our costs from the Scottish Tourist Board. So things are creeping up. Many thanks to all who have got us so far.

As we'd hoped, the basic internal structure was completed in time for its opening at the international gathering on 29th June 1991. The first room ('The ancient Clan') has a red background, with slates on the floor and draped dress tartan forming its ceiling. The modern section has a blue-green carpet and biscuit-colouredessian walls, with draped tartan from the Blues and Saxters already in place, together with MacMillan hunting and ancient tartans in both dyes. There is also a world map (a generous present) on which we hope to show the whereabouts of clan societies; and a working replica of Kirkpatrick MacMillan's bicycle. The archive room has its computer (subsidised by another kind clan person) waiting for somebody suitable to feed it with family trees. We've yet to choose the most suitable programme for it.

The total expenditure to date has been 221,000.

We now have the exciting problem of how best to display our heritage in words and pictures. We've had an offer of expert help in this from a North American MacMillan.

You'll recall that our last letter high-lighted a problem, caused by high bank charges for negotiating cheques from overseas, and suggested the appointment of trusty clansmen to collect and consolidate donations before forwarding them to us.

We very much hope that, along with donations, people will put up ideas. In that way the Clan Centre should be a more interesting place to visit. And, after all, it's your Centre.

Yours sincerely,

Finlaystone,
Langbank,
Renfrewshire,
PA14 6TJ
Scotland.

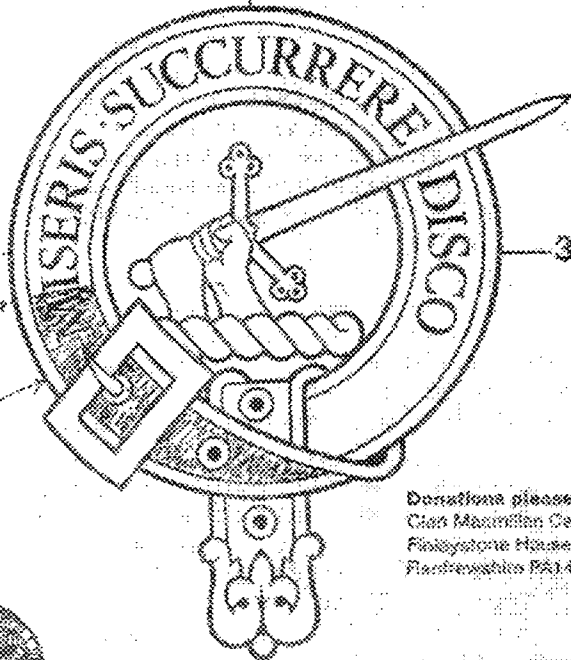


Armorial Bearings of MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap Chief of the Clan Finlaystone, Langbank



Clan Centre, north elevation, in old stable block.

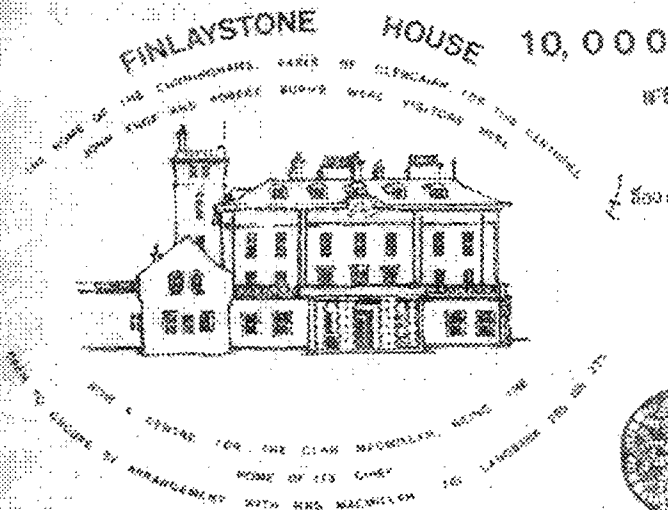
220,000



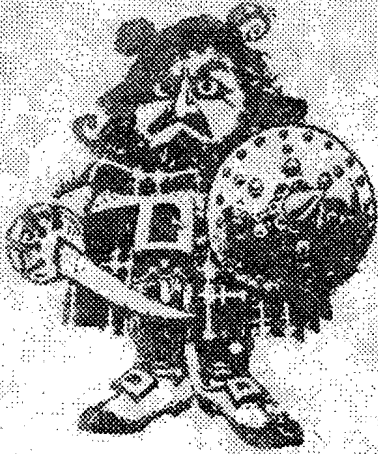
Donations please to:
Clan MacMillan Centre Appeal
Finlaystone House, Langbank,
Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ

Clan MacMillan Centre

appeal

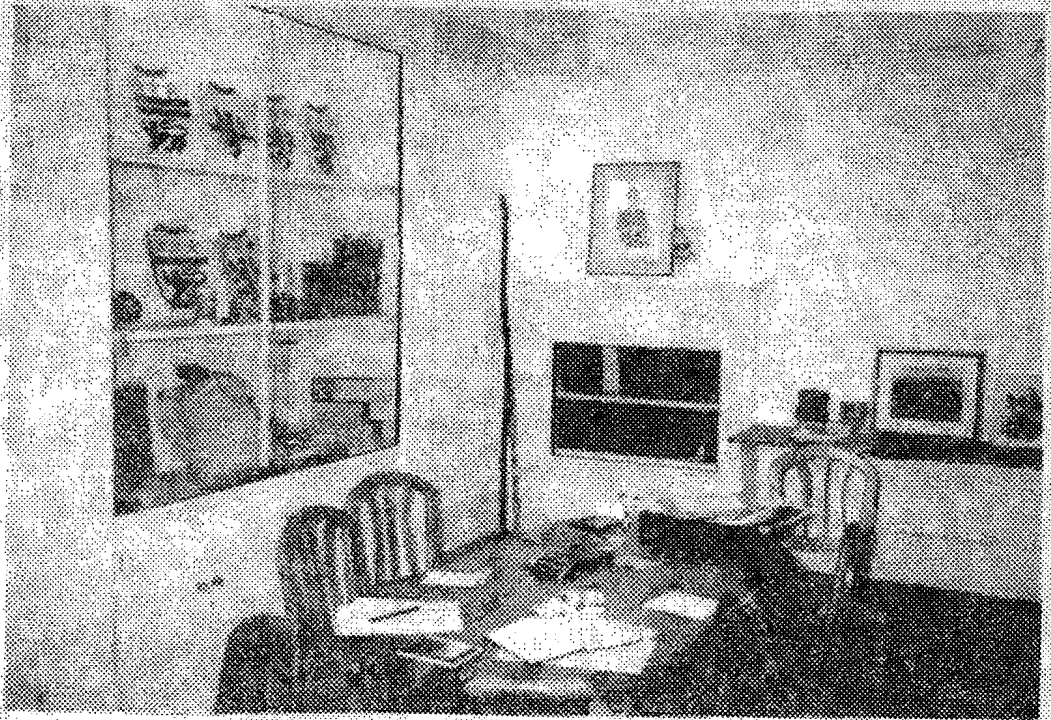


MACMILLANS AT FINLAYSTONE



From the Editor's Desk

Archive room at Clan
Centre, Finlaystone
See appeal page 3



In 1968, 24 years ago, when I started as Editor and Publisher of the Newsletter, my wife Blanche and I did not have any children, and we had visited Finlaystone for the first time. We got off to a fine start with the birth of twin girls, Christy and Kara in 1970, followed in quick succession by John in 1972, and James in 1973.

I now find myself in the strange position of publishing the death of one of my own daughters. Kara J. McMillan died on 6 August 1991 at age 21 years after a 1-1/2 year struggle with cancer. She developed the cancer at the end of her 2nd year at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. (See page 11.)

Kara, as well as the other children, contributed a great deal to the Clan MacMillan Society through her help with the Newsletter. It was always a family affair, collating, stapling, envelope stuffing, and licking envelopes. She helped with the last two issues from her hospital bed. At age 17 months, Kara and Christy attended their first North America MacMillan Gathering in 1971 at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, (Montreal), Quebec, and again at the Chief's (Sir Gordon) two visits to the Scottish World Festival Tattoos in Toronto in 1972 and 1976. As a Highland Dancer, Kara performed with her sister at a mini gathering of Clan MacMillan at the First International Gathering of the Clans in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1979 and at the Clan MacMillan Society of North America Gathering in Peterborough, Ontario, in 1980 (the last in Ontario).

Kara also had the pleasure of working at Finlaystone in the summer of 1985 where she and Christy got to know the late Chief Gen. Sir Gordon and Lady MacMillan, the present Chief George and Jane, and their two younger sons, Richard and Malcolm. Richard, who was born in Toronto while his father was a visiting professor at the University of Toronto, was killed in a car accident near Aberdeen two months later in October 1985, at age 21 years.

With reference to the above article John B McMillan of Burlington, Ontario, Canada has edited and published The Clan MacMillan Society of North America Newsletter (founded in 1958) since 1968. John kindly sends us a copy of their Newsletter which is full of interest about the activities of the North American Clan.

I know you would like to share with John, Blanche and family his letter in the Newsletter I have recently received, telling of his daughter Kara and her brave fight against cancer. To John, Blanche, Christy, John and James our heartfelt sympathy. Kara was a lovely girl and they will all have wonderful memories of her life with them.

June Senior Editor

FINLAYSTONE

Glasgow Herald
Scotland, 11 June 1991



Jack
Webster

I HAD passed the gateway many times, on the road to Greenock and the Ayrshire coast, but had never accepted the invitation to sample the gardens of Finlaystone House at Langbank . . . until last week, that was.

And what a pleasure lay in store. For here, so close to the motorway, was an oasis of natural beauty, from trees and scented foliage to lawns and gardens. — and a magnificent view of the Clyde estuary as it opens out in breathtaking panorama.

At first sight, the man with the scythe and ragged denims, applying his own muscles to the taming of growth, might have been a feral hand.

Instead, he turned out to be the landlord, George MacMillan of MacMillan, chief of a clan which has given us everything from Prime Minister Harold to the inventor of the bicycle.

There are swarms of them around the world, a thousand in one small corner of Florida alone, while the Canadian brand takes up four pages of the Toronto phone-book.

But Finlaystone is Mecca for the MacMillans, the spiritual home to which they gravitate in search of renewed faith. And what a piece of good fortune that they have landed a leader like George, a gentle and civilised academic who carries self-effacement beyond all reason.

It might have been so different. After a long spell when there was no chieftain at all, the claim of his father, that great soldier, General Sir Gordon MacMillan, was put to the Lord Lyon more than 40 years ago. He firmly rejected it.

Further evidence convinced him, however, and Sir Gordon became the chief of Clan MacMillan. Leadership had been in his nature. Having collected three Military Crosses in the carnage of the Somme, he found himself one day fighting in a battalion of the Argylls which was so depleted that he had to take over as commander — at the age of 19.

Five years ago, while driving his car out from the Finlaystone gateway, that great hero was killed outright in a collision. Lady MacMillan soldiered on at Finlaystone but tragedy was not letting up.

Just a few weeks ago, she was visiting relatives in England when, unable to turn off the bath-tap, she was scalded so badly that she died.

Meanwhile, George had taken over from his father, albeit from a vastly different career background. He went to Eton and Cambridge and carved out a successful career as schoolmaster, lecturer and eventually professor, all achieved under the handicap of not being able to read.

By a cruel stroke of genetics, three of the five children produced by Sir Gordon and Lady MacMillan were registered as blind, all suffering from retinitis pigmentosa, which blocks out their central vision and gives them sight only on the fringes.

George MacMillan used Braille but, while studying the classics and theology at Cambridge, he simply loved people to read for him.

Rather touchingly, the three MacMillans with the blindness problem all live at Finlaystone, as did their parents until their tragic deaths, retaining a fine sense of family.

Judy, now Mrs Hutton, plays a major part in looking after the gardens while David runs the adjoining farming. Of the two who were spared the blindness, Andrew read history at Cambridge and works in Rome, while John followed his father's example and became a distinguished soldier.

He commanded the Gordon Highlanders and later, as Lt General Sir John MacMillan, could claim to be the only son ever to follow a father as G.O.C. Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. He is now a fruit farmer at Thornhill, Stirling.

Back at Finlaystone, George's physical efforts were being directed to preparations for the big spree at the end of this month, an international clan gathering which will bring MacMillans from the far corners of the earth.

George's wife, Jane, who runs the big house, has been putting in a superhuman effort to create a Clan MacMillan Centre, based on the old stables, which will give the clansfolk a better idea of their history and lore and will include a reproduction of the first bicycle, invented by Kirkpatrick MacMillan from Dumfriesshire.

They hope to have the centre ready for the gathering, a rather splendid weekend which will include everything from a barbecue to a banquet and the inevitable skirl of the pipes.

It will end with a religious service under the same yew tree where John Knox is said to have conducted his first communion service in the West of Scotland.

Robert Burns was another visitor to Finlaystone, scratching his name on a windowpane, as was his habit. The owner of the time, James Glencairn, was going to Burns, who named his son after him and wrote a long lament on his death.

The MacMillans retain a civilised touch with a motto which says, roughly, "I learn to support the weak."

The clan chief dismisses the idea that he is an aristocrat. "I always feel aristocrats have to be slightly arrogant," he muses. That, he is certainly not. He might even blush if you called him a perfect gentleman. But that he certainly is.

Rigel MacMillan of Glasgow is the current President of Clan MacMillan Society of Scotland.

Courtesy Prof. Anne Robertson, University of Glasgow, via Col. Douglas B. MacMillan, Sherman Oaks, California

St. Andrew's Day Remembrance Committee

Patron: Lieutenant Colonel The Honourable Sir Robert Palmer, AC, MC, VC, ED.

Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel G. M. Palmer ED.



Let Us Forget

Dedicated to the memory of
men and women of Scots
birth or descent who
fell in the service
of their country.

You are invited to the
**SCOTTISH REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY**

1992

**AT THE SHRINE OF
REMEMBRANCE**

St Kilda rd. Melbourne

SUNDAY 29 NOV. AT 1.45 PM.

Guest Speaker

Sir David Hay CBE, DSO, MBE.

Guard of Honour

5/6 Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

Ceremony includes...

**PROCESSION OF CLANS & EX-SERVICE
GROUPS**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MASSED PIPE BANDS



Post Ceremony Activities

Afternoon tea, a Display of Highland and Country Dancing

MCMILLAN PATH- FINDER (CONTINUED)

The Scot did not tear off his clothes and rush headlong into the water despite the near century temperature. His inner glow of achievement was even tinged by a melancholy suspicion that perhaps after all this was not part of his dreams. The tide was out. The sun glistened in the sunlight, and an army of crabs scurried in a tireless quest for food.

The Albert River (now known as Brodribb) emptied itself into a narrow channel and an island of mangroves dotted the inlet and covered the slimy mud banks. Black swans alone lent grace to an otherwise depressing picture.

Banksia, tea-tree and stunted gums met the coast stopping short abruptly at the cliffs where the gulls nested.

For reassurance McMillan turned to the Black, Friday, who told his four white companions that in the channels the water was deep with plenty fish and that when the tide flowed in many ships could use the port.

Leaving McLaren, Old Bath and Friday to explore along the bank of the Albert, Macalister and McMillan, ignorant of the name given to the stream by Brodribb, walked along the beach on the firm sand. Angus was strangely silent. Mcalister thought to himself. The man is an enigma. Here he has spent years attempting to reach this shore and he has nothing to say. He is still my uncle's overseer, but acts as though he holds in his hands the destiny of a providence. Despite his rough work clothes, despite his lack of wealth, I cannot escape the feeling that somehow I am in the presence of a man whose name will be remembered when mine is forgotten. Actually Angus was thinking about Margaret and wishing that she was here to share this moment.

To Mcalister he was prosaically matter of fact, indicating that because of low supplies they must start the return journey tomorrow

Together they clambered up the yellow cliffs and walked through the tea-tree and banksia until a magnificent gum brought them to a halt. Taking his axe McMillan blazed on the trunk of the giant :-

ANGUS McMILLAN
14.2. 1841

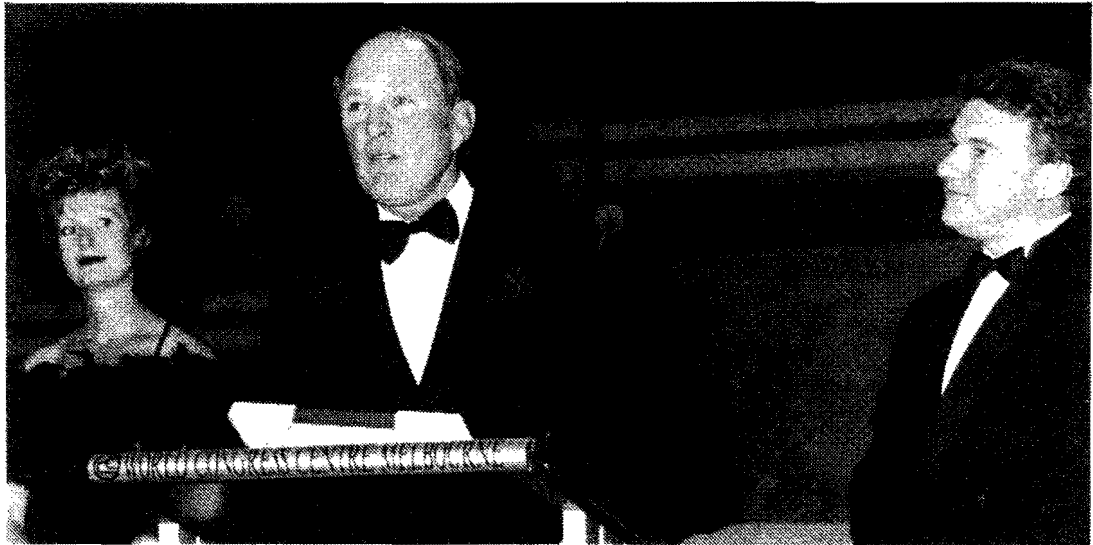
The two turned towards the shore meeting McLaren, the convict and the black at the mouth of the Brodribb River. They prepared to camp the night. The tree inscribed by McMillan stood for many years as a landmark until felled by Commissioner C.J.Tyers who built his home nearby.

Today a chain of cairns marks McMillan's route to the sea. This would have gratified the Scot, who had fought hard to gain recognition of his determined efforts to discover a port.

To be continued.....

TOURISM AWARD FOR 1992

John McMillan of Metung is shown in the photograph below accepting the 1992 Victorian Tourism Award for Motoring Accommodation. Congratulations to John & Kaye. This is a fine achievement.



1992

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 22ND NOVEMBER -ST. ANDREWS DAY SHRINE REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.
Complete details are on page 6 of this Newsletter.
- 29TH NOVEMBER TO
6TH DECEMBER-SYDNEY SCOTTISH WEEK INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CLANS
An excellent occasion. This year is International.
- 5TH DECEMBER-DAYLESFORD HIGHLAND GAMES. SATURDAY MARCH THROUGH TOWN.
1993
FEBRUARY-BERWICK HIGHLAND GAMES. BIGGER AND STRONGER EACH YEAR.
- 14TH MARCH -GEELONG HIGHLAND GAMES.
- 28TH MARCH -RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES. AN ANNUAL EVENT. MARCH OF THE CLANS.

NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to all the Clans who have sent us their latest Newsletters. Seasons Greetings to all and a Happy, Healthy New Year.


RECORD OF ANCESTOR FORMS

Thank you to members who have returned the completed Ancestor form. These will appear in a later Newsletter when more details are to hand.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you to those of you who have written when sending your subscriptions. Your letters are very much appreciated. We enjoy hearing from you, telling us what you enjoy in the Newsletter and any ideas you may have to make it more interesting.





**McMILLAN
HOLIDAY VILLAGE**

Telephone (051) 56 2283. P.O. Box 66, Metung, Victoria, 3904.

